

## **Strategy #8: Family Support Consortium and Service Expansion**

### **Increase coordination of Family Support services, and provide enhancement or expansion grants to existing family support services**

The Pinal Regional Partnership Council has identified family support and education as a critical need in the Pinal Region. To better support optimal parenting and their child's healthy development, parents need information and awareness of existing services as well as assistance to better understand when and how services would be appropriate for their family or child. There are services in place with intent to meet these needs; however, existing services are limited due to barriers such as boundary and enrollment restrictions or limited funding. While some families may qualify for and participate in home visiting programs (see Strategy #7), other families may not be comfortable with in-home service and may prefer to access help through community-based settings. Although the Pinal Region has a number of community-based programs these services are not well understood or coordinated and there is a lack of knowledge among families as to assistance and programs available.

Many organizations provide a variety of programs; however there are different eligibility requirements, enrollment processes, outreach efforts and curriculum requirements for each one. Currently there is no mechanism to coordinate family support and community-based programs and services, nor the ability to identify and address gaps in service, reduce duplication, or ensure that families are referred to the services that best fit their needs. Therefore, the Pinal Regional Partnership Council will develop a Family Support Consortium.

Research suggests improving fundamental parenting practices will reduce the likelihood of challenging behaviors in children. One way to enhance the parent-child relationship is through parent training and family-strengthening programs. Evidence-based parenting education programs have been studied in both controlled, clinical trials and community settings and have demonstrated specific, expected outcomes. However, the effectiveness of any parent training program will be dependent upon selecting a model that is appropriate for the given population and implemented with fidelity. It is important to note that many programs which lack a formal or "confirmed" evidence base may still produce desired outcomes and improvements for its participants.<sup>1</sup>

The Family Support Consortium will work to ensure that all families have the information and support they need to be effective parents through a coordinated network of programs and seamless delivery of services. In order to reach this goal, the Family Support Consortium will identify existing programs, services and opportunities for expansion to meet the needs of families in the Pinal Region. Based upon this work and information, the Pinal Regional Partnership Council will also develop and release grants to address family support in the following five areas: literacy, development (physical, cognitive, social/emotional, language, and aesthetic), family support services, resource and referral, and child health.

The Family Support Consortium will assess the current program models being used and research the most current information available to promote best practices for family service providers. Appropriate and effective curriculum and outcome-based models will be recommended. Models will need to provide evidence of data collection and evaluation to support their use.

Subsequent grants that address the above stated needs will use this research and information to provide the appropriate services.

**Strategy Components:**

- I. Development of the Family Support Consortium
- II. Release of Expansion Grants

**Development of the Family Support Consortium**

The Family Support Consortium will bring together family support service providers within the region to meet monthly for ongoing coordination, to streamline and eliminate duplication of services, and to identify un-served and underserved areas. In addition, the Consortium will work to define and support use of “best practices” for outcomes in the family service arena that is appropriate for the Pinal region. Participants will also be provided with targeted professional development in order to increase or improve regional service quality. Professional Development will focus on program quality standards and program self-assessment process, program evaluation, leadership, recruitment and retention of families and marketing and advocacy. Participation will be open to all Family Support services, and will be a requirement for any recipients of First Things First financial support.

Family Support Consortium Reporting to the Regional Partnership Council will serve to provide an overall picture of the current services and gaps. The consortium will provide ongoing recommendations for improvements leading to greater efficiency and effectiveness.

For the first year, the Regional Partnership Council has the following outcome reporting needs. Each report will provide information on the reduction of duplication of services, evidence of streamlining services, as well as program and evaluation results.

**First Quarter Report**

- Identify existing services throughout the region. Provide service descriptions, eligibility requirements, locations, number served, and waiting list information.
- Identify gaps in, or duplication of, service provision.
- Identify un-served or underserved populations or areas.
- Gap analysis mythology plan presented and approved by Regional Council.

**Second Quarter Report**

- Define and prioritize regional needs
- Make recommendations for expansion grant opportunities

**Third Quarter Report**

- Define the work plan and outcome measures following 12 month period (reduce duplication of services, streamline access to services for consumers, assure appropriate referrals, demonstration of increase in coordination and collaboration in order to increase quality, effectiveness or efficiency).

**Fourth Quarter Report**

- Report on membership and participation. Include planning and scope to address 100% provider

participation with Consortium for next 12 month period.

- Summarize the strategic planning goals for next 12 month period.

### **Expansion Grants**

Expansion of family support programs will occur strategically within the region. These grant opportunities will be available following recommendations received from the Family Support Consortium. The Pinal Regional Partnership Council will review recommendations and direct opportunities for expansion of services to meet the specified needs of children and families.

All expansion grantees will be required to:

- Participate in Family Support Consortium
- Use evidence based proven practices, to assure evaluation and outcomes.
- Provide program evaluation, service data, and performance information to the Consortium and Regional Partnership Council.
- Show increase of service levels.
- Conduct community outreach in order to bring in new families and educate the community on services provided.

Programs must provide an expansion in services to children/families in one or more of the following focus areas:

- Parent Education (to build parent knowledge, skills, and abilities to promote the healthy development of their young children)
- Child/Family Literacy
- Child Development (physical, cognitive, social, emotional, language, aesthetic)
- Resource and Referral for Family Support services
- Child Health (nutrition, obesity prevention, breastfeeding, physical activity, immunizations, oral health, insurance enrollment, participation in medical/dental homes)

### **Research Notes**

<sup>1</sup>Meeker, Elizabeth and Levison-Johnson, Jody. Evidence-Based Parenting Education Programs: Literature Search, September 2005. Coordinated Care Services, Inc

**Lead Goal:** FTF will coordinate and integrate with existing education and information systems to expand families' access to high quality, diverse and relevant information and resources to support their child's optimal development.

### **Key Measures:**

Percentage of families with children birth through age five who report they are satisfied with the accessibility of information and resources on child development and health

Percentage of families with children birth through age five who report they are competent and confident about their ability to support their child's safety, health, and well-being

### **Target Population:**

All families within the Pinal Region.

<b>Proposed Service Numbers</b>	<b>SFY2010 July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010</b>	<b>SFY2011 July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011</b>	<b>SFY2012 July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012</b>
I. Development of a Family Support Consortium	I. - 1 Consortium (see performance measures below)	I. - 1 Consortium (see performance measures below)	I. - 1 Consortium (see performance measures below)
II. Quarterly Reports	II. - 4 Reports	II. - 4 Reports	II. - 4 Reports
III. Presentation to the Regional Partnership Council	III. - 4 Presentations	III. - 4 Presentations	III. - 4 Presentations
IV. Community Based Expansion Grants	IV. - TBD	IV. - TBD	IV. - TBD

#### **Performance Measures SFY 2010-2012**

##### **Family Support Consortium**

1. Number of members attending each meeting
2. Number of meetings /proposed numbers
3. Number of policies developed
4. Number of report s/proposed numbers
5. Number of council presentation/proposed numbers

##### **Community Based Expansion Grants**

1. Programs and percentage of families that reported satisfaction with provided family support
2. Percentage of Family Support Consortium participants / stakeholders reporting an increase in knowledge about other service providers and satisfaction with level of coordination
3. Percentage of families showing increases in parenting knowledge and skill after receiving family support

#### **How is this strategy building on the service network that currently exists:**

Several agencies operate parent education classes and related family support services within the region. This strategy allows for expansion to areas or populations not currently served.

**What are the opportunities for collaboration and alignment:**

This strategy is based upon increasing collaboration and alignment. First a Consortium is established to begin opportunity, next all participants will plan for improving alignment and practice. Successful awareness of expansion grants will be required to participate in the Consortium and be required to report on efforts to collaborate, reduce duplication, address gaps in service, and coordinate service delivery.

This strategy is intended to build on existing parent support programs within the community. Through sharing of information and program services this strategy will work in collaboration with: Strategy #7 (Home Visiting), Strategy #2 (Increase outreach: insurance enrollment, oral health, nutrition, immunizations, and well child care), Strategy #3 (Preventative health care screening), as well as, Strategy #10 (Professional Development). In this way, the Regional Partnership Council is intending to build web of services, complementary and collaborative, providing a seamless flow of services for families with children ages 0-5 in the Pinal Region.

**SFY2010 Expenditure Plan for Proposed Strategy****Population-based allocation for proposed strategy****\$250,000****Budget Justification:**

**\$50,000** - Development of a Family Support Consortium - To include quarterly reporting, supplies, materials, instructional development, travel and instructor fees.

**\$200,000** – To be allocated with intent to award between 10 and 20 grants at \$10,000 - \$20,000 each. This allocation is intended to allow for the expansion of existing programs. Costs may include supplies, materials, printing, personnel cost, and travel. Applicants will identify one or more of the following areas to address:

- Parent Education (parent knowledge, skills and abilities to promote the healthy development of their young children)
- Child/Family Literacy
- Child Development (physical, cognitive, social, emotional, language, aesthetic)
- Resource and Referral
- Child Health (nutrition, obesity prevention, breastfeeding, physical activity, immunizations, oral health, insurance enrollment, participation in medical/dental homes)